

31 DECEMBER 1946

I N D E X
of
WITNESSES

<u>Prosecution's Witnesses</u>	<u>Page</u>
van Nooten, John Charles, Lieutenant, Australian Imperial Forces (resumed)	13984
Direct by Lieutenant Colonel McCrane (cont'd)	13984
Cross by Mr. Brooks	13993

I N D E X
of
EXHIBITS
(none)

1 Tuesday, 31 December, 1946

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3 INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
4 FOR THE FAR EAST
5 Court House of the Tribunal
6 War Ministry Building
7 Tokyo, Japan

8 The Tribunal met, pursuant to adjournment,
9 at 0930.

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11 Appearances:

12 For the Tribunal, same as before with the
13 exception of: HONORABLE JUSTICE D. JARANILLA, Member
14 from the Republic of the Philippines and HONORABLE
15 JUSTICE JU-AO MEI, Member from the Republic of China,
16 not sitting.

17 For the Prosecution Section, same as before.

18 For the Defense Section, same as before.

19 The Accused:

20 All present except OKAWA, Shumei, who is
21 represented by his counsel.

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23 (English to Japanese and Japanese
24 to English interpretation was made by the
25 Language Section, IMTFE.)

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1 MARSHAL OF THE COURT: The International
2 Military Tribunal for the Far East is now in session.

3 THE PRESIDENT: Colonel Mornane.

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5
6 J O H N C H A R L E S V A N N O O T E N, called
7 as a witness on behalf of the prosecution, resumed
8 the stand and testified further as follows:

9 DIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY LIEUT. COLONEL MORNANE (Continued):

11 Q Mr. Van Nooten, will you tell the Tribunal
12 about the treatment of American Second Lieutenant
13 Grainger?

14 A Camp manager IKEUCHI sent a message by an
15 Australian soldier which was due to be given to me.
16 This message was instructing me to report to Japanese
17 headquarters at a certain time. The Australian soldier
18 passed the message to Second Lieutenant Grainger of
19 the United States Army, who in turn was to pass it
20 to me. When the message was finally given to me there
21 was a discrepancy of half an hour in the time to report
22 to headquarters. I reported to headquarters late and
23 was beaten. IKEUCHI found that Second Lieutenant
24 Grainger had passed the message and he deliberately
25 came down into the camp and searched for Grainger.

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1 He was armed with a short heavy club and on finding
2 Grainger delivered a blow on Grainger's head, felling
3 him to the ground. Grainger regained consciousness
4 after a few minutes and was forced then to stand in
5 the sun in front of the guardhouse for a period of
6 about two to three hours. He was without headress
7 in the hot sun and on numerous occasions collapsed.

8 Q Now, coming to inspections of the camp by
9 senior officers, could you tell the Tribunal anything
10 as to that?

11 A For the first period until the middle of
12 1943 inspections were made regularly by the commander
13 of the garrison. That was Captain ANDO. The next
14 commander of the garrison who relieved Captain ANDO
15 did not make so many inspections. During the earlier
16 part, that is, until the middle of 1943, on several
17 occasions the camp was inspected by very high naval
18 officers, vice admirals and admirals. On one occasion
19 we were inspected by a high Japanese naval officer
20 who, we were informed by the camp manager, was a brother
21 of the Emperor. Another inspection was made shortly
22 later by an individual who was reported to have been
23 the Emperor's personal aide.
24

25 Q Who reported him to be the Emperor's aide?

A IKEUCHI. All of these inspections were cursory.

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1 Prisoners of war were lined up and sick men were kept
2 indoors, out of sight.

3 Q Were conditions bad when these inspections
4 were made?

5 A Conditions were not bad when you compare
6 with the latter two years in the camp.

7 Q But from the absolute point of view were
8 they bad?

9 A Living quarters were good and the camp was
10 very clean, but we did have approximately 50 or 60
11 sick and weak men who were usually put in hospital
12 during that period.

13 Q Were every any written requests or complaints
14 made as to conditions?

15 A On numerous occasions I personally handed
16 written requests and written complaints to IKEUCHI
17 with a request that they be forwarded on to higher
18 authority. These requests were usually torn up and
19 thrown back in my face. The reply was usually, "We
20 have no use for complaints. Japan will surely win the
21 war, and we will not have to answer questions."

22 Q Could you tell the Tribunal anything as to
23 the Japanese treatment of natives?

24 A On many occasions I observed the Japanese
25 sentries and Japanese camp commander and the Japanese

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1 camp manager ill treating natives.
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1 Q Of what did that ill treatment consist?

2 A Face-slappings, kicking, punching and
3 beatings with sticks that were very like pick handles.
4 These beatings were delivered for no apparent reason,
5 and, more often than not, after having delivered the
6 punishment, the natives would be forced to assume
7 one of the standing positions such as body-press,
8 balancing on one leg for a fairly long period in the
9 sun.

10 Q Do you remember the treatment of a pregnant
11 woman in 1942?

12 A I can vividly recall how a native woman who
13 was obviously pregnant was punched and knocked to
14 the ground by a guard. Whilst she was on the ground
15 she was viciously kicked in the stomach. Other
16 Japanese members of the guard who were not on duty
17 watched this punishment or this treatment with obvious
18 signs of amusement. After the native woman had lost
19 consciousness she was handed over to some native men
20 who were passing through who were instructed to take
21 her back to her home.

22 Q Do you know anything about the treatment of
23 members of the Gosporis family?

24 A The Gosporis family were very badly treated.
25 They were -- the head man of the family was the Chief

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1 Rajah of Ambon. One member of this family, one of
2 the sons, was executed at the sametime as 11 Australians
3 were executed in 1942. Another son was beaten to
4 such an extent that he was permanently crippled.

5 Q Well now, with regard to Allied airmen,
6 were there any Allied airmen among the prisoners?

7 A On four separate occasions, from about
8 February 1943 until July 1945, parties of Allied
9 airmen who were members of crews of planes shot down
10 over Ambon came into our camp area. They were
11 under very strict supervision and we were not permitted
12 to contact them.

13 Q Were any of them there at the time of the
14 Japanese surrender?

15 A No, they had all been taken away from the
16 camp. Shortly after they had joined the camp they
17 were taken away under very suspicious circumstances.

18 Q What were these circumstances?

19 A The airmen were taken away from camp with
20 armed guards and a Japanese working party with picks
21 and shovels. The airmen were never seen again
22 whilst we were prisoners; but, in the case of seven
23 airmen, four Australian and three American, their
24 bodies have been recovered in a cemetery near Ambon
25 town.

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1 Q Can you tell the Tribunal anything about
2 the misuse of the Red Cross by the Japanese?

3 A I can recall having seen a large ship which
4 was armed as an auxiliary cruiser bearing Red Cross
5 signs and was still armed and carrying members of the
6 fighting forces and was also carrying patients.

7 Q Would you know the name of that ship?

8 A The Rio de Janeiro Maru.

9 Q Did you ever see any other hospital ships
10 used for war purposes other than carrying the sick?

11 A A work party of Australian prisoners was
12 detailed for wharf work in 1943 -- 1944. They were
13 loading and unloading small craft that were moored
14 alongside a hospital ship. The Australian officer
15 in charge of the work party reported to me on his
16 return to camp that he had observed bombs and ammunition
17 being unloaded from the hospital ship.

18 Q Of the total force of 528 Australians who
19 were on Ambon on the 26th of October 1942, how many
20 were alive at the date of the Japanese surrender?

21 A At the date of recovery, the 10th of September
22 1945, 123 Australians were alive. About 5 Australian
23 prisoners had died between the date of the Japanese
24 surrender and the date of recovery.
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1 Q Did any die very shortly after the date of
2 recovery?

3 A When the prisoners were recovered, they
4 were taken to Morotai where two prisoners died within
5 three or four days.

6 Q With regard to the Americans, how many of
7 them died during their imprisonment at Ambon?

8 A Of the fourteen Americans that were with
9 us on the 26th of October, 1942, five died.

10 LIEUT. COLONEL MORNANE: Could the witness
11 be shown exhibit 1676A?

12 (Whereupon, a document was
13 handed to the witness.)

14 Q Will you have a look at the third document.

15 (To the Gov.t) I think the witness has only
16 stated "1676"; the number of photos, 1676A.

17 THE MONITOR: Mr. Prosecutor, what is the
18 prosecution number on that?

19 LIEUT. COLONEL MORNANE: The prosecution.
20 number is 5294A. I think it is 5294A. 5294B it is.

21 (Whereupon, a document was
22 handed to the witness.)

23 BY LIEUT. COLONEL MORNANE (Continued):

24 Q Will you have a look at the fifth document.
25 Can you identify the man shown there?

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1 A Yes. I can identify the photograph as that
2 of Staff Sergeant Storer, S. D.

3 THE MONITOR: Witness, what is "S. D."?

4 THE WITNESS: S. D.

5 LIEUT. COLONEL MORNANE: Initials.

6 Q And the following document?

7 THE PRESIDENT: I am handicapped. The
8 witness is using my photographs.

9 (Whereupon, a document was handed
10 to the President.)

11 A Exhibit F is also the photograph of Staff
12 Sergeant Storer.

13 Q Will you have a look at exhibit G of that
14 exhibit.

15 A That is a photograph of Private Cook, R. T.,
16 one of those prisoners who died on arrival at
17 Morotai.

18 Q And exhibit H?

19 A That is also Private Cook, R. T.

20 Q And exhibit I?

21 A That is a photograph of Private Wright, H. J.

22 Q And, now, exhibit D?

23 A The man on the stretcher is Private Ellis,
24 J. E.

25 Q Were all of those men you have named

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1 prisoners of war who were recovered at Ambon?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And were they in the condition shown in
4 these photographs?

5 A At the date of arrival at Morotai, that
6 was their condition.

7 LIEUT. COLONEL MORNANE: That completes the
8 examination in chief, if the Tribunal pleases.

9 THE PRESIDENT: Captain Brooks.

10 - - -

11 CROSS-EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. BROOKS:

13 Q Were you present when these photographs
14 were taken? Do you know when these photographs were
15 taken you have just examined?

16 A I knew the photographs were taken, but I
17 was not present.

18 Q When were they taken?

19 A During the first two or three days of our
20 stay in Morotai after having been recovered.

21 Q Yesterday you were speaking about some
22 Japanese quartermaster that you talked with informing
23 you about the supply that was available there. How
24 much did you talk with this quartermaster about this
25 supply?

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1 A I only had the opportunity of speaking with
2 him on two occasions.

3 Q What were those occasions?

4 A One occasion was towards the end of 1944
5 when I spoke with him for about five minutes. The
6 other occasion was after the Japanese surrender when
7 he was present when quite a large amount of food-
8 stuffs was delivered to the camp for the use of the
9 prisoners.

10 Q Was this foodstuff that was delivered part
11 of the supply that you talked with him about?

12 A The foodstuffs that were delivered at that
13 time were large quantities of tinned food as well
14 as rice. The rice was the only thing that he re-
15 ferred to as being the supplies on the island to
16 cover that period and the reserve.

17 Q Then the tinned foods that you received
18 were not part of this reserve supply that was on
19 the island?

20 A The tinned foods must have been a portion
21 of the reserve supply, but my conversation with the
22 Japanese quartermaster referred to rice only.

23 Q Did you discuss with this Japanese the
24 period of time that this reserve supply had been
25 available?

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1 A He informed me that since the war had been
2 completed there was no longer any need to keep this
3 rice in reserve but that while the war was on he was
4 forced to keep a year to a year and a half's supplies
5 in advance.

6 Q Then from your conversation with him, is
7 it correct to say that they had a reserve supply for
8 emergency purposes all during the period of the war?

9 A From my conversation with him I gathered
10 that there was that reserve on hand at the end of
11 the war.

12 Q And you do not know whether there was such
13 a reserve on hand all of the time during the period
14 of the war, is that correct?

15 A I do know that over the last twelve to
16 eighteen months only very small shipments of rice
17 arrived at the island.

18 Q I believe you testified also that during this
19 period that you were there at one time the Japanese
20 ration had been cut for a period of time, is that
21 correct -- of rice?

22 A That is correct. It was cut in about
23 November of December, 1944 to seventeen ounces,
24 approximately.

25 Q Now, as to the medical supplies, do you know

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1 whether they kept any emergency reserve of medical
2 supplies?

3 A After the war had finished, within a few
4 days of the finish of war we had requisitioned for
5 further medical supplies, and these requisitions
6 were fulfilled.

7 Q You said the other day that you were making
8 monthly requisitions and that you never received
9 them in full but only unnecessary items. Don't you
10 mean less essential items? You weren't requisition-
11 ing unnecessary items, were you?

12 A "Less essential items" would cover it
13 probably better than "unnecessary," but they were
14 items such as permanganate of potash which we had
15 quite a lot of.

16 Q And might you not further describe these
17 less essential items as those there was a less
18 demand for?

19 A We had plenty of use for them ourselves.

20 Q That is not what I mean. I mean that there
21 are certain items that you requisitioned which were
22 greatly in demand and, therefore, would tend to
23 diminish the supply available, and if the ones that
24 you received for which there was less demand and less
25 need, less drawing upon from that supply -- is that

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correct?

A The demand in our camp for these items that were not supplied was great, but I do not know what the demand as far as the Japanese side was concerned nor what their supply was.

Q Now, this building there that you say IKEUCHI was requested to mark for a hospital, was it ever marked in any way to designate it as a hospital?

A It was not marked so that it could be seen from the air. It was marked over the door with a small Red Cross sign, which was just one of our own, indicating that it was not a sleeping hut.

Q Were there any other Japanese buildings in that area marked with a Red Cross that could be distinguished from the air as a hospital?

A About five miles from our camp the Japanese had a hospital of their own, and there was a Japanese-controlled Indonesian hospital. Both of these were very well marked with red crosses painted on the roofs.

Q Neither one of these buildings had ever suffered any air attack, had they?

A They were two of the very few buildings on the island that were never hit.

Q The red cross on these buildings, then,

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was a protection, was it not?

1 A It appeared so.

2 Q Now, in this hospital that was not marked,
3 there was Japanese personnel in that hospital em-
4 ployed there, were there not?

5 A Our camp hospital was run and staffed by
6 Allied personnel only, and Japanese only entered
7 the building on very rare occasions for inspections.

8 Q And who were the Japanese that entered the
9 building on these inspections?

10 A The camp manager entered in order to check
11 on the doctor and see whether he was withholding men,
12 and on very rare occasions a Japanese medical officer
13 made a very quick inspection through the hospital.

14 Q These quick inspections for the doctor, were
15 they made so he could get out of the building before
16 an air attack?

17 A No, not necessarily. He very rarely entered
18 the camp when there were Allied airplanes in the
19 vicinity.

20 Q Were there any guards around this area?

21 A There were six guard posts around the
22 perimeter of the camp and one guard at the guard-
23 house in the center of the camp.

24 Q Now, where was the administrative head-
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quarters building?

1 A The local administrative headquarters was
2 about twenty yards outside our prison compound on a
3 hill overlooking us.
4

5 Q Now, these instruments that were available
6 in this hospital, you have stated, for amputations --
7 butcher knives, saws and scissors, and so forth --
8 were any prisoners ever taken out of that hospital
9 or out of that camp to the other two hospitals in
10 that vicinity for operations of any kind?

11 A On the 16th of February, 1943, that is, a
12 day following the day on which the bomb dump was
13 bombed, two Australians, one officer and one other
14 rank, were taken to the Japanese hospital to be
15 treated for fractured femurs.
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1 Q Now, did the Japanese doctors in the other
2 hospitals ever come to this area and to your prison
3 hospital for making any kind of operations?

4 A On the 15th of February 1943, several
5 Japanese doctors came to the camp area and I saw them
6 perform one operation when they amputated the foot of
7 Lieutenant Campbell. He died a few minutes after the
8 operation.

9 Q Do you know of any other cases where they
10 came there for emergency operations?

11 A They did not come to our camp for emergency
12 operations, although they did attend the five men
13 who were injured when the bomb exploded on a work party.

14 Q At such times, did they not bring with them
15 the necessary medical equipment and tools for performing
16 the surgical work necessary at that time?

17 A Yes. I gained the impression that they had
18 adequate instruments.

19 Q So that in case of necessity of an operation
20 of some kind, the instruments could be and had been
21 made available from time to time, had they not?

22 A On several occasions when we did ask for
23 instruments to be made available, they were not made
24 available. On one occasion they were made available
25 late.

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1 Q This equipment that these doctors were using
2 was the regular army issue Japanese type of medical
3 equipment, was it not? I am talking about the Japanese
4 doctors, now.

5 A They were instruments that they carried in a
6 medical field pannier. I presume they are the army
7 type instruments.

8 Q Now, as to these alleged experiments, you
9 state there were several groups of men selected. At
10 the time this selection was made, how many patients
11 were there in the hospital?

12 A Somewhere between sixty and seventy-five.

13 Q And how many patients were left in the hos-
14 pital after this group had been selected?

15 A They were not taken away from the hospital
16 so there were still sixty to seventy-five there. But
17 probably all patients were used for the experiments
18 with the exception of about ten.

19 Q And these ten were men that were selected who
20 were not patients in the hospital, is that correct?

21 A No. All of the patients in hospital excepting
22 those ten were subject to these medical experiments.
23 Many men who were not in hospital were also subject to
24 experiments.

25 Q How many men that were not in the hospital

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1 were subjected to such medical experiments?

2 A There were at least nine or ten groups, each
3 consisting of ten men. It would mean that there were
4 at least thirty or forty men who were not in hospital
5 who were on the lists.

6 Q Did these men work during this period?

7 A The majority of them, yes.

8 Q What kind of work were they doing at that time?

9 A The weaker men were doing **gardening** work on
10 Japanese-controlled gardens out of camp; and the
11 groups which were comprised of fit men or allegedly
12 fit men were doing the hard labor works of digging
13 tunnels, defensive positions, preparing roads and
14 other works that I have previously described.

15 Q These allegedly fit men, were they of the
16 working group, the strongest of the working group
17 or the weakest?

18 A They were the stronger ones.

19 Q You mean by that that of the working men that
20 were not in the hospital, that there were others that
21 were not being subjected to these treatments that were
22 in worse physical condition?

23 A There may have been some men who were weaker
24 who were not subjected to these experiments. I have
25 lists with me now, which are carbon copies, of the

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1 groups that were treated, the medical officer's
2 remarks shown alongside them, and the lists are marked
3 with a cross showing each man who died.

4 Q Were you given any of these injections?

5 A No, I was never given them in the form of a
6 course, although on two occasions I did ask the
7 Japanese medical orderly who was present, giving the
8 injections, to give me one that was allegedly
9 Vitamin B₁ so that I could see what the reaction was.

10 THE PRESIDENT: At page 13958, line 24, this
11 witness said yesterday, referring to medical supplies:
12 "Occasionally, we received the more unnecessary items."
13 In that context, "more unnecessary" means less necessary
14 or less essential.

15 We will recess for fifteen minutes.

16 (Whereupon, at 1045, a recess was
17 taken until 1100, after which the proceedings
18 were resumed as follows:)
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1 MARSHAL OF THE COURT: The International
2 Military Tribunal for the Far East is now resumed.

3 THE PRESIDENT: Captain Brooks.

4 MR. BROOKS: Mr. President, I asked the
5 reporter to check back if there was any other words
6 used besides "more unnecessary items." I caught
7 it the other day. The witness said "only unnecessary
8 items," and I thought it might be a mistake in
9 translation because "more" does make better sense.
10 However, "more" is what does appear in the record
11 now.

12 THE PRESIDENT: There is nothing in it
13 except that he was too ready to admit an error which
14 he did not make.

15 MR. BROOKS: I thought I wrote down exactly
16 what he said, and I have on my paper "We never received
17 them in full, only unnecessary items."

18 BY MR. BROOKS (Continued)

19 Q Now, Mr. Witness, we were talking about
20 these injections. It was customary among the Japanese
21 to use a liquid type of vitamin injection, was it not?
22 In other words, at no time did they have concentrated
23 tablets as we are accustomed to?

24 A They had liquid and powder vitamin B, but
25 I never saw concentrated tablets.

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1 Q Would you tell us what the effect was, if
2 you were affected in any way by the injections that
3 you received?

4 A The effect of the injection on me was not
5 noticeable with the exception that I distinctly
6 noted that there was no smell of vitamin B in the
7 place of injection. A vitamin B injection has a
8 distinctive smell as of fresh bread or yeast, and
9 there was no such smell on this injection.

10 Q Now, of these thirty or forty men, allegedly
11 fit men that received the treatment, how many of
12 those died that you can attribute to the treatment
13 administered?

14 A I cannot attribute any deaths solely to
15 the treatment.

16 Q You are not a medical officer, are you?

17 A I am not, but I was in close liaison and
18 working very closely with our medical officer who
19 frequently made reports to me of the matter.

20 A I see. Would you tell me whether at the time
21 you left this camp, this hospital that you said was
22 not marked for aerial observation--had that been
23 marked with a red cross prior to surrender?

24 A Our camp hospital was never marked with a
25 red cross during the period of the war excepting the

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1 emergency hospital which was marked for those few
2 hours that I described on the day of the bombing.

3 Q Well, was this an auxiliary hospital to
4 a larger place that was so marked?

5 A Our camp hospital was the only hospital
6 that we could use, and no patients were ever trans-
7 ferred from our hospital to any other hospital
8 excepting the two who were injured in the bomb blast,
9 and they were never actually admitted to our own
10 camp hospital. They were taken straightaway.

11 Q You stated on one of the work parties that
12 you were transporting bombs that were opened up by
13 a blacksmith crew. Were these the bombs that you
14 have described on this long carry?

15 A The work party that I described as a black-
16 smithing job of opening bombs was not transporting
17 bombs. They were bombs that were at a particular
18 area, specifically put there to be opened. They were
19 500-pound bombs as distinct from the 150-pound bombs
20 being carried on the overland long carry.

21 Q For what period of time was this blacksmith
22 crew employed on these bombs?

23 A The work party was doing that work for about
24 fifteen or twenty separate days, not necessarily
25 consecutive days.

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1 Q How large was this work party?

2 A It normally consisted of five men.

3 Q How many bombs did they handle in this
4 period of time?

5 A Probably two or three bombs a day, that is,
6 completely dismantling and powdering the explosive
7 compound.

8 Q Now, were there any Japanese injured as
9 a result of this explosion?

10 A The Japanese non-commissioned officer who
11 was supervising the party was also injured.

12 Q Now, this other party on this long carry,
13 where did they carry this cement from?

14 A From the village of Batoegon.

15 Q And what was the name of the village that
16 they carried it to?

17 A Hitoemori.

18 Q And how far was Batoegon from their camp?

19 A About eight or ten miles.

20 Q How far was Hitoemori from their camp?

21 A A further eight miles. The only way that
22 I know to get to it goes over the long carry course,
23 excepting by sea.

24 Q You say this route that they went over was
25 such that they had to go in some places on all fours?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q On how much of this route was it necessary
3 for them to go on all fours?

4 A According to reports that I received from
5 men who were on the work party and from NCO's in
6 charge of the work party, on three or four different
7 places over the sides of steep hills.

8 Q You say "on the sides of steep hills"?

9 A Over.

10 Q Over the sides of steep hills?

11 THE PRESIDENT: Had they to climb over the
12 spurs of ranges converging on the seacoast -- seashore?

13 A THE WITNESS: That is correct, sir.

14 BY MR. BROOKS (Continued):

15 Q Then there was not anything overhanging
16 that would cause them to get on all fours?

17 THE PRESIDENT: There is no need to go into
18 those details, Captain Brooks. He said that between
19 the point from which they traveled and the point to
20 which they traveled was along the seashore.

21 BY MR. BROOKS (Continued):

22 Q This terrain, then, that you traveled was
23 level along the seashore, or was it back from the
24 seashore into the cliffs?

25 THE PRESIDENT: Was the beach broken by

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the spurs of hills?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir, for short distances
2 the course was actually along the beach sands and
3 then would go over these spurs.

4 BY MR. BROOKS (Continued):

5 Q Then, when these men were on all fours,
6 they were either climbing or descending, is that
7 correct?

8 A That is correct.

9 Q And during all of this period of time they
10 were carrying this cement in what fashion?

11 A The cement was in a ninety-pound bag carried
12 on their shoulders.

13 Q Was it fastened on the man's shoulders in
14 any manner?

15 A No. They carried them in the same manner
16 as a man lugging a bag of wheat or a bag of rice.

17 Q Now, when these 150-pound bombs were carried
18 by the two men, what manner of disposition of the load
19 was made between the two men?

20 A The bomb was slung on a pole between the
21 two men.

22 Q Now, were there any natives or Japanese
23 help used in this work?

24 A The work party were Australian prisoners
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1 only with Japanese supervisors.

2 Q How long did this work continue?

3 A It continued over a period of about six
4 weeks with a few days' break spread over the whole
5 period. During those breaks normal heavy work
6 was continued.

7 Q You stated, I think, that all of the stock
8 pile of cement was moved. Was all of the stock pile
9 of bombs moved?

10 A To the best of my knowledge, yes.

11 Q Had there been any cement or bombs moved
12 by Japanese labor prior to your prisoner-of-war gang
13 being furnished for this work?

14 A The senior non-commissioned officer on the
15 party, the first party, reported to me that there
16 was no stores whatsoever in the village of Hitoemori
17 when they arrived there.

18 Q How large a work party was this?

19 A The first work party ordered for this task
20 was 120 men. By the end of six weeks it had been
21 reduced to 80 men.

22 Q How many guards were used for this detail
23 of men?

24 A The original parties were divided into
25 four gangs of thirty and there were two guards to

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1 each gang.

2 Q Then, for your original party there were
3 eight guards, is that so?

4 A There were definitely eight guards. There
5 might have been ten.

6 Q These guards used the -- I strike that.
7 How many trips per day did these men make?

8 A The work party started at six-thirty in
9 the morning and to cover that trip with a load there
10 and empty-handed back, they could do it once, and
11 the party was finished by nineteen-thirty.

12 Q You mean that by nineteen-thirty the men
13 were finished and were at Hitoemori, or were they
14 back in their camp?

15 A The party usually arrived back at Batoegon
16 about nineteen hundred and were brought back to our
17 camp by motor truck and were there by nineteen-thirty.

18 THE PRESIDENT: How many days a week had
19 the men to work like that?

20 THE WITNESS: Most men had to do four days
21 in succession and would then have one day's change
22 of work and then back for three or four more days.
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1 Q These men were taken to their work from
2 their camp by motor truck in the morning, is that
3 correct?

4 A That is correct.

5 Q At what time did they leave their camp? Did
6 they leave their camp at 6:30 a.m.?

7 A Yes, at 6:30.

8 Q Now, during the time that they were between
9 Batoegon and Hitoemori, how were they supplied with
10 food and water?

11 A Each gang of thirty men was divided up into
12 twenty-six who were carrying and four who were carrying
13 rations, water, and the like.

14 Q You say there was one man died on the long
15 carry. Where did he die and under what circumstances?

16 THE PRESIDENT: He died in bed and his name
17 was Wilkinson, wasn't it?

18 THE WITNESS: No, sir.

19 THE PRESIDENT: Smith?

20 THE WITNESS: No, sir. The man who I said
21 died collapsed on the return trip to Batoegon, was
22 carried to Batoegon by some of his comrades, placed
23 on a truck and arrived in camp where I received him
24 in an unconscious condition and took him to our camp
25 hospital.

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1 Q What was the diagnosis of his death -- of
2 the cause of his death?

3 A The diagnosis as shown on the Japanese death
4 certificate was beriberi; actually it was malnutrition
5 and exhaustion.

6 THE PRESIDENT: What was his name?

7 THE WITNESS: I never quoted his name, sir,
8 but I think from memory it was Private Williams, A.D.

9 THE PRESIDENT: Williams, not Wilkinson.

10 BY MR. BROOKS:

11 Q What age man was he?

12 A About twenty-three years old.

13 Q Now, as to the mail that arrived at this
14 camp, did you receive any mail?

15 A Yes, I received two letters.

16 Q Have you ascertained whether your family
17 heard from you during the period of time that you were
18 in confinement?

19 A My family received no news or notification
20 as to my whereabouts or condition from the period of
21 captivity until two days after the date of recovery.

22 Q How was your family notified of your address
23 so that you could receive this mail? And when were
24 they notified?

25 A Australian Army authorities advised my family

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1 that I was missing and believed a prisoner of war.
2 Australian Red Cross advised my family that if they
3 wrote letters addressed to me care of my old unit
4 at the station at which I was captured they may be
5 delivered.

6 Q How many letters did you write to your family
7 during this period?

8 A We were not permitted to write any letters
9 or letter cards or send any information away from
10 our camp whatsoever.

11 Q Did you make any request to contact your
12 government or any other government agency?

13 A On several occasions, yes.

14 Q Were these written requests that were made?

15 A At least two written requests were handed to
16 the Japanese authorities requesting contact with our
17 government or with the Red Cross.

18 Q Were any of these contacts ever made?

19 A They were never made.

20 Q You have described one of the daily punish-
21 ments was that of having a boulder or rock placed in
22 your hand and holding it over your head. Were you
23 ever punished in that manner?

24 A No.

25 Q Now, you stated that in November, 1942, four

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1 Australians were caught at night outside the prison
2 area. What were they doing outside the camp at
3 approximately 2:00 a.m.?

4 A I mentioned that they were recaptured or
5 they were taken in custody at approximately 2:00 a.m.
6 Prior to that they had been out of the camp, I believe,
7 making an effort to get additional food and things
8 like fresh fruit from the natives.

9 Q Now, were they part of the 25 men that you
10 say were executed?

11 A Yes, those four men were executed.

12 Q Now, as to Tait that arranged to get some
13 binoculars as a souvenir, you say he was beaten with
14 a pick handle. How large were those pick handles
15 you are discussing here?

16 A They are the normal size pick handle, about
17 three feet six or three feet nine long and about two
18 inches at the widest end, about one inch at the handle
19 end.

20 Q Were all of these guards carrying pick handles?

21 A Not always. Sometimes they carried a wooden
22 replica of a sword but there were always pick handles
23 available for when they required them.

24 Q You say that you were struck for trying to
25 intervene on his behalf on several occasions. Where

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1 did this happen?

2 A Right where Tait was being punished at the
3 guardhouse.

4 Q What were you doing there?

5 A In my position of camp adjutant the Japanese
6 held me responsible for every misdemeanor and I was
7 invariably called to witness the punishments and was
8 usually punished alongside the men.

9 Q You mean that because of your administrative
10 position that you usually received the same punishment
11 as any man that was punished in the camp?

12 A I was held responsible and frequently received
13 the same punishment but on a lot of occasions the
14 punishment was a direct result of trying to have the
15 punishment reduced and intervening.

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1 Q What authority -- what authority were you
2 permitted to exercise in this capacity?

3 A I was allowed to be present during punish-
4 ments, but actually had no authority to stop the
5 punishment.

6 Q You did not have the power to punish in any
7 way yourself, or take preventative measures to avoid
8 these acts of breaking rules or regulations?

9 A My commanding officer gave me authority to
10 punish any man, or to do anything, take any course
11 to prevent offenses which I thought necessary.

12 Q Then your commanding officer was authorized
13 certain disciplinary powers to use for maintaining
14 proper conduct among the prisoners, is that correct?

15 A They were our own internal arrangements. We
16 did not punish a man ourselves for a breach of a
17 Japanese regulation.

18 Q Did you punish any for breaches of your own
19 regulations?

20 A Yes.

21 Q What did that punishment consist of?

22 A Detailing a man to go on a work party which
23 was monotonous; giving him no change from a work party.

24 Q Did you ever report any to the Japanese for
25 disciplinary action, or for confinement?

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1 A Certainly not.

2 Q Then none of your disciplinary measures ever
3 involved the confinement to the guardhouse of any of
4 the prisoners of war under your jurisdiction?

5 A To confine a man in the guardhouse we would
6 have to have Japanese permission, and Japanese per-
7 mission was never sought to punish a man.

8 Q Now, you said that Tait died six months after
9 this trouble that he had. What was the cause of his
10 death at that time?

11 A Malnutrition, beriberi and a tropical ulcer.

12 Q Now, in talking of Solomon and three others,
13 you state that he was given ten days hard labor as a
14 punishment, and then later was taken out and beheaded.
15 Now, between the time that he started this ten days
16 hard labor and the time that he was executed had he
17 made any attempt to escape or any other act that would
18 call for a more severe punishment?

19 A No. These men were under the impression that
20 their punishment was to be ten days hard labor, and
21 then they would be -- their punishment would have been
22 completed.

23 Q Do you know of your own knowledge whether any
24 act was committed by these men, or this man, during
25 this ten days hard labor which would have led to a

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1 different type of punishment being inflicted?

2 A I know that they definitely did not commit
3 any act which would have jeopardized their chances.

4 THE PRESIDENT: Did the Japanese ever say they
5 had?

6 THE WITNESS: The Japanese informed me, sir,
7 that after they had been taken from the camp that they
8 had made further confessions of having stolen from
9 Japanese stores.

10 Q Did they state what they had stolen?

11 A The Japanese accused them of having stolen
12 several cases of tinned salmon, a case of tinned meat,
13 and four or five 40 kilo bags of rice.

14 Q Were these men armed at the time of their
15 capture?

16 A These four men were not captured. They were
17 members of a party who were lined up within our camp
18 area and asked: "Did you or did you not steal?" They
19 confessed.

20 Q Now, on these inspections, were any of the
21 prisoners allowed to complain to the inspecting party?

22 A Official complaints could only be made through
23 the interpreter and camp manager, IKIUCHI, and no
24 Australian prisoner had the right of direct approach
25 to him. Whilst out of camp they became under the control

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1 of guards who had been allocated to supervise the
2 particular work.

3 Q Do you speak Japanese?

4 A No.

5 Q Now, were any of these prisoners beaten or
6 mistreated in the presence of inspecting officers when
7 they were there?

8 A Not in the presence or in front of high rank-
9 ing inspecting officers, but the commander of the gar-
10 rison, Captain ANDO, did order beatings and carry out
11 beatings personally while he was on inspections.

12 Q I am talking of inspections now of camps by
13 senior officers, not by camp inspectors.

14 THE PRESIDENT: Was Captain ANDO an army cap-
15 tain?

16 THE WITNESS: No, sir. He was a naval captain
17 in command of a complete garrison unit of some two
18 thousand men.

19 THE PRESIDENT: We will recess now until half
20 past nine on Thursday morning.

21 (Whereupon, at 1200, an adjournment
22 was taken until Thursday, 2 January 1947, at
23 0930.)
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